

Volunteer and Internship Opportunities

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate
National Recreation Area



Be a Park Hero!



You can make a difference!



Getting Started

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is a 75,500 acre National Park comprised of redwood forests, beaches, marshes, creeks, and important cultural and historical sites. It plays host to 27 endangered plant and animal species. You're invited to join our volunteer team to help us preserve habitats, restore historic landmarks, staff visitor centers, and educate the public about the world's largest urban National Park.

Read through this brochure. If you're interested in a drop-in program (positions marked "D"), call the number listed for directions and show up on the scheduled program day. For internships and positions not designated as drop-in programs, please continue reading to see how you can submit a Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Application.

Applications

A VIP application is required for all internships and most volunteer positions in interpretation, education, natural resource management, and administration. These positions usually require a time commitment and training. Training is provided unless otherwise noted.

For information and to apply online visit www.nps.gov/goga/vip. Call the Volunteer Hotline at (415) 561-4755 for an application or for more information or email goga_volunteers@hotmail.com.

Additional Volunteer Hotlines

TTY (415) 561-3020

Cantonese (415) 561-3034 x2500

Spanish (415) 561-3034 x2600

Your application will be referred to a program manager who will contact you for an interview. Please allow at least three weeks for a response.

Internships

Positions marked with an "I" have internship possibilities. Housing and out-of-pocket expenses may be available, upon request, for full-time interns. The minimum time commitment varies depending on the position; usually a six month commitment is requested. Occasionally, three month positions are available. To apply, submit a VIP application listing your preferences.

Group Projects

Special projects can be arranged for groups of ten or more at various sites throughout GGNRA. Most projects require at least three hours and are outdoors, involving clean-up or habitat restoration (protecting and enhancing local flora and fauna through planting native plants and removing invasive weeds). Please allow at least four weeks for scheduling.

Call (415) 561-3034 x3444 for additional information.

Equal Opportunity Policy

Golden Gate National Recreation Area is committed to a strong nondiscrimination policy respecting its employees and volunteers. Its policy is to provide equal opportunities for all and to eliminate discrimination based on sex (including sexual harassment and sexual orientation), race, color, national origin, religion, age, and disability.

Accessibility

Wheelchair access is noted for each position where applicable. Call (415) 561-4755 for more detailed information regarding workplace conditions.

Legend

- [I] Internships Available
- [D] Drop in Program
-  Accessible

Interpretation

Provide information at a visitor center or become a docent. Docents bring to life the natural and cultural history of the Park by presenting public walks and talks. Training is provided. A regular schedule and minimum time commitment is required.

MARIN

Marin Headlands Visitor Center • [I]

Enjoy the cozy environment of the historic Fort Barry Chapel. Assist at the information desk, greet visitors, answer inquiries by phone and in person, or help maintain exhibits. Weekday and weekend shifts available. Weekly commitment for one year preferred.

Muir Woods National Monument • [I]

Share the beauty of the Muir Woods old growth redwood forest by leading interpretive education programs, staffing the visitor information desk, answering questions while roving the main trail, assisting with special events, and helping with natural resource management work. Flexible hours; volunteer commitment of 10 hours per month for one year. Internships are a full-time, four month commitment.

Nike Missile Site • [I]

The only museum of its kind in the U.S., it is the last of the 12 anti-aircraft missile launch sites that protected the Bay Area during the Cold War. Interpret the history or help in the preservation and restoration of this unique site in the Marin Headlands. Flexible positions available daily.

SAN FRANCISCO

Alcatraz Island • [I]

Carry the keys as you welcome and orient visitors to Alcatraz, walk the island answering questions, demonstrate prison equipment and give behind the scenes tours to visitors from around the world. Research Alcatraz and Bay Area history. Flexible schedule; twice a month commitment for six months.

Pacific West Info Center (Fort Mason)

Learn about camping and other activities available in the National Parks of the Pacific West. Provide information to visitors in person and by internet, email, mail, and phone. Weekly four-hour shifts available, six month commitment preferred.

Presidio / Battery Chamberlin

Hands on history! Lead a gun drill, maintain a historic “disappearing gun,” and tell the story of 200 years of coastal defense at the Golden Gate. A one of a kind opportunity at Baker Beach.

Presidio / William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center

From this elegant 1896 building, share information on how the Presidio relates to multi-cultural, military, California, and natural history. Answer phones and sell park books. Weekly commitment for six months.

Docent Program

New mandatory course provided on a bi-yearly basis throughout the year. Locations include: Point Bonita Lighthouse, Muir Woods, Alcatraz, Presidio, and Cliff House. Flexible schedule. Call VIP Hotline for further information at (415) 561-4755.

Natural Resources "The Source"

*Grow the native plants used for restoration throughout the GGNRA. Learn how to grow plants from seeds and cuttings and how to care for seedlings. Training provided on site. For information on all nursery programs, call (415) 331-6917. (An * indicates field work in addition to nursery activities.)*

Marin Headlands	Saturdays	9 am - Noon	(415) 332-5193	I	D	
	Wednesdays	1pm - 4 pm	(415) 332-5193	I	D	
Marin - Tennessee Valley	Tuesdays	9:30 am - 4 pm*	(415) 331-0732	I	D	
Marin: Muir Woods	Wednesdays	10 am - 1 pm*	(415) 383-4390	I	D	
San Francisco: Fort Funston	Saturdays	10 am -12:30 pm*	(415) 239-2366	I	D	
San Francisco: Presidio	Wednesdays	1 pm - 4 pm	(415) 561-4830	I	D	
	Saturdays	1 pm - 4 pm	(415) 561-4830	I	D	

Habitat Restoration

Help restore native plant habitats suffering from human impact. Improve habitat value for local wildlife while learning about Bay Area plants and natural history. Steward sites with other community volunteers as you plant native vegetation, remove invasive weeds, learn plant identification, and help monitor the success of restoration efforts.

Marin: Habitat Restoration Team - [I] [D]

(Sun, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm)

With over 30 different sites throughout the GGNRA, this program provides you with an opportunity to work in many scenic areas north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Call (415) 561-4848 for upcoming work dates and (415) 561-3034 x3426 for a monthly newsletter and calendar. Carpool available from San Francisco.

Marin: Redwood Creek Stewards - [D]

(Sat, 10 am - 1 pm)

Special efforts are being made to protect the Redwood Creek watershed, habitat to the endangered coho salmon and steelhead trout. Activities include removing invasive plants and replanting disrupted areas. Call (415) 383-4390 for directions and information.

Marin: Rodeo Valley Stewards - [I] [D]

(Wed, 9am - noon)

Help steward the beautiful and varied habitat of the Marin Headlands. Come help us control invasive plants, collect seeds, and learn more about the plants and animals that live here. Carpool available. (415) 332-5193.

SF: Presidio Park Stewards - [I] [D]

(Wed and Sat, 9 am - noon) Conveniently located at the Presidio in San Francisco, this habitat restoration program offers a surprising array of native habitats. The Presidio's dune and serpentine scrub, grasslands, and woodlands are home to 12 species of rare or endangered plants. Call (415) 561-3034 x3445 for more information and directions.

Parkwide: Invasive Plant Patrol - [D]

Scout beautiful trails as you search for and map new infestations of invasive plant species. Remove small patches to help keep wild areas healthy, while you hike! Flexible days and hours. Marin Headlands and Sweeney Ridge (Daly City, south of San Francisco): (415) 331-0732. Muir Woods: (415) 383-4390.

Parkwide: Rare Plant Monitoring - [D]

(February - August) Opportunities to monitor the range and population sizes for 38 rare or endangered plant species throughout GGNRA. Volunteers conduct field censuses, participate in GIS mapping efforts, and record data in the park's restoration database. Training provided. (415) 668-9765.

Natural Resources "The Source"

Parkwide: Site Stewardship Program, Marin or San Francisco - [I] [D]

(Sat and Thurs, 9 am - 12:30 pm)

Help to restore the ecological integrity of three unique watersheds in the Park, home to several endangered species. Be involved in all aspects of ecological restoration, from monitoring to revegetation. Call (415) 561-3034 x3437 for a calendar and more information. Carpool available from Fort Mason.

Parkwide: Tool Steward - [D]

Park restoration wouldn't be the same without hand tools and the tools won't be the same without maintenance. Sharpen, scrape, and oil hand picks, weed wrenches, and power tools. Present tool use safety and demonstrations to other volunteers. All training provided. (415) 561-3034 x3435.

WILDLIFE MONITORING

Help gather information on wildlife populations, diets, breeding habits, human and environmental impacts, and more! Opportunities to monitor a range of species change periodically throughout the year, depending on migratory, breeding, and seasonal weather patterns.

Marin: Coho and Steelhead Monitoring - [D]

Assist with spawner surveys in Park streams in Marin county from November to March. Assist in stream and wetland topographic surveys year round. All equipment provided. For details call (415) 331-8716.

Marin: Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

Interested in birds of prey? Volunteer to count or band raptors in the Marin Headlands. Must commit to one full day every other week from August to December, with some evening and weekend trainings in July and August. For prospective volunteers, informational meetings are held in late April. (415) 331-0730 or visit <http://www.ggro.org>

Marin: Marine Mammals Monitoring - [D]

Help monitor the harbor seal population on the rocks near Point Bonita Lighthouse. Due to harbor seals' extreme sensitivity to humans, monitoring will be conducted with spotting scopes from the cliffs that overlook the rocks. Volunteers interested in animal behavior, wildlife biology or marine biology are strongly encouraged. All training will be provided. Regular commitment desired. (415) 331-0729.

San Francisco: Snowy Plover Monitoring - [D]

(Wednesdays and Saturdays) Monitor the western snowy plover (a threatened bird species) at Ocean Beach with binoculars or spotting scopes. Walk along soft sand for 1.5 miles searching for plovers. Commitment of twice a month for three or more months preferred. No experience necessary. (415) 561-4456.

Parkwide:

Mission blue butterfly monitoring - [D]

Enjoy the breathtaking views of Milagra Ridge (Pacifica) or of the Marin Headlands while monitoring two endangered butterfly species - the Mission blue butterfly and the San Bruno elfin. Roam trails observing transects (scientific plots) and report your findings. Flexible schedule. All training provided. (415) 561-3034 x3435 Milagra Ridge. (415) 331-0729 Marin Headlands.

MAINTENANCE

San Francisco: Crissy Field Maintenance - [D]

The two primary areas needing volunteers are the Crissy Field Grounds and the East Beach. Duties at Crissy Field Grounds include removing undesirable vegetation, grooming lawn areas and maintaining irrigation systems. Duties at East Beach include collecting driftwood, rocks, and other large debris and placing it in a central collection location for removal by the regular maintenance crew. (415) 561-4019.

Environmental Education Positions

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area serves as one of the nation's largest and most inspiring urban outdoor classrooms. From fragile indigenous habitats to historic landmarks, ancient redwood groves to dramatic coastal preserve, the park's value as an urban educational resource is unsurpassed. Deeply committed to young people, National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Association staff partner with educators to design inquiry-based learning linked to school curriculum and education standards.

Parks As Classrooms • [I]

Create and deliver curriculum-based education and Service Learning programs in the park. Present programs in classrooms, facilitate hands-on experiences, and participate in specialized training. Programs for K-12 classes, concentrate on either the social sciences or natural sciences. Opportunities available in San Francisco at Alcatraz, the Presidio, Fort Point, Fort Funston, and in Marin at Muir Woods and Marin Headlands. www.nps.gov/goga/education

Presidio Park Stewards • [I]

(Tues and Thurs; 9 am - noon / 1-4 pm)
Novel hands-on environmental education program. Work with middle school and high school students. Commitment of one day per month requested. (415) 561-4856.

Site Stewardship Program • [I]

(Wed; 12 - 4:30 pm)
Work with students at the Oceana High School Native Plant Nursery, in Pacifica, propagating and maintaining plants for the restoration of Milagra Ridge. (415) 561-3034 x3437.

Environmental Technology Lab (Thurs-Sun; 1-4 pm)

The Crissy Field Center is a new urban environmental community center located on the Presidio. Discover how technology can play an integral part in the way people explore the convergence of urban and natural environments. Assist visitors in the use of computers loaded with the latest software, plus digital cameras, printers, geographic information system equipment, and a weather station. Minimum three month commitment. (415) 561-7751.

Office Positions

Work in energetic offices with fun, casual atmospheres. Gain insight into the management of a National Park.

MARIN

Administrative Assistant—Marin Headlands

Assist the Marin Headlands Visitor / Resource Protection department with clerical duties. Experience with Windows a plus. Flexible schedule. (415) 331-3812.

Administrative Assistant—Muir Woods

Assist the Muir Woods Visitor / Resource Protection department with clerical duties. Experience with Windows a plus. Flexible schedule. (415) 331-3812.

Information and Data Management—Marin Headlands

Gain valuable computer skills by entering and recording vegetation monitoring, restoration work activity, outplanting, seed collection, and plant propagation data into the park's restoration database. Learn how to use Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) operations. No experience required, all training provided. Commitment of two days per month required.

Office Assistant—

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

Put your strong organizational skills to use while you help keep the office running smoothly. The Raptor Observatory, located in the Marin Headlands, studies the largest migration of birds of prey on the Pacific Coast. (415) 331-0730.

SAN FRANCISCO

Information and Data Management

(See Marin entry for details)



Office Coordinator / Assistant Volunteer Manager—Presidio Natural Resources • [I]

Opportunities range from database management to managing other volunteers. Schedule volunteer habitat restoration projects, coordinate volunteer recognition events and trainings. Flexible hours. (415) 561-4857.

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Volunteers in Parks
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 561-4755

PACIFIC
OCEAN

NOVATO

VALLEJO

SAN PABLO
BAY

SAN
RAFAEL

BERKELEY

SAN
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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